

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 873

By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to commemorate the dedication of the new
Heritage Peace Garden on the grounds of
Pickett Chapel in Lebanon.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize those civic events that bring yesterday, today, and tomorrow together for Tennesseans who are seeking to learn more about our shared history, heritage, and culture; and

WHEREAS, on May 19, 2012, the Wilson County Black History Committee will be dedicating the new Heritage Peace Garden on the grounds of Pickett Chapel in Lebanon to celebrate the history of Pickett Chapel on the new Promised Land Trail in Wilson County and placing a plaque recognizing the site as a landmark on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, Pickett Chapel was constructed in 1827, and is the oldest building made of red bricks, which were formed by slaves, in Wilson County; and

WHEREAS, Pickett Chapel is where all races have gathered since it was established as Pickett Chapel Methodist Church. Whites sat in pews on the floor below, and as slaves, blacks sat upstairs, until after the Civil War in 1866, when the building was purchased by a group of African Americans during Reconstruction in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Pickett Chapel was the early meeting house for what is now the First United Methodist Church in Lebanon and what is now Pickett Rucker United Methodist Church in Lebanon; and

WHEREAS, Pickett Chapel is now devoted to arts, history, and culture in Wilson County through the Roy Bailey African American Museum and History Center in Lebanon. The Museum was established in 2004 by the Wilson County Black History Committee, a small group of men

and women dedicated to the memory of the founders and families of Wilson County's thriving African American community; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, the committee purchased the historic building on East Market Street that housed Pickett Chapel Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, Pickett Chapel is now an official stop on the "Promised Land: Pilgrimage To President Trail" driving tour, a Discover Tennessee Trail and Byway, for those wanting to learn about the history of Middle Tennessee and Wilson County; and

WHEREAS, 2012 is an important year in the history of Pickett Chapel because it marks the 200th Anniversary, the Bicentennial, of the Tennessee Conference of the United Methodist Church, which originally spanned nearly nine states in the South and Midwest; and

WHEREAS, Pickett Chapel has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1977, and the Wilson County Black History Committee will be dedicating a commemorative landmark plaque from the Tennessee Historical Commission on May 19 during the festivities for its new Heritage Peace Garden; and

WHEREAS, Pickett Chapel will also be erecting a cross made of timbers in the new Heritage Peace Garden; these timbers were left over from the reconstruction of the log Asbury-Babb House in Lebanon, the last known home where Francis Asbury, the first Bishop of American Methodism and one of the founders of the denomination in Tennessee along with William McKendree, preached before his death; and

WHEREAS, the new Heritage Peace Garden will be a valuable addition to historical and cultural significance of Pickett Chapel, as will the plaque commemorating the site's inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commemorate the dedication of the new Heritage Peace Garden on the grounds of Pickett Chapel in Lebanon, recognize the placement of the new National Register of Historic Places landmark plaque at Pickett Chapel, and commend the

members of the Wilson County Black History Committee for preserving and disseminating the fascinating history of Wilson County's African American community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.